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New York Office, 220 Broadway, (St. Paul Building)
C. A. MENET, Representative.



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1909.

THAT "LITTLE JOKER"—WHO DID IT?

As may be recalled without any invidious strain upon memories, Mayor Lee and the joint committee of Manufacturers and business men laid great stress upon an alleged claim that the city, should it adhere to its harbor line, would be compelled to pay \$250,000 damages to the railroad company. In fact, this constituted the principal argument in support of the recommendation that the city abandon its own, and adopt the railroad's harbor line. It was dwelt upon and reiterated from time to time as opportunity served. We now know that this \$250,000 apprehension was unfounded, the new charter not containing that section of the old charter, under which assessment and collection of damages might be enforced.

Not until Monday last did this fact become generally known. Then the Farmer, having received from the Mayor's office an advance copy of his proposed charter amendments and having found therein the proposed re-enactment of a certain section of the old charter, investigated and found that the new charter did not contain the old charter's provision for the assessment and collection of damages, and that the proposed charter amendments did contain a re-enactment of that provision, so cleverly disguised that the casual reader would probably pass it over without a second thought. Some one had evidently discovered the omission of the section from the new charter and had sought to restore it through the Mayor's charter amendments. Why?

The attempt failed. As the result of the Farmer's exposure of the "little joker," the proposed amendments, when presented to the board of Aldermen, did not contain the dextrously devised scheme to saddle upon the city the payment of that \$250,000 which had so frightened the mayor and the joint committee. It had been withdrawn between the hour of the exposure and the hour of the Aldermanic meeting. Its withdrawal was a confession that its purpose was, to speak mildly, improper.

Its inclusion in the proposed charter amendments was explained as "a clerical error." Such errors generally consist of the use of the wrong word or the omission of a word or words. We never knew the phrase to be stretched to cover an entire paragraph, or to be used in sufficient explanation of legislative devices valued at \$250,000, more or less. Clearly it was not "a clerical error." Some one prepared that amendment with a distinct purpose and did it very skillfully, in the manner in which similar "little jokers" have been smuggled through legislative bodies many times and for many years.

There need be no explanation of the reason for its inclusion in the proposed amendments, or any statement of the identity of the beneficiary—both are self-evident.

But who prepared it and secured its inclusion? Who is the railroad's "friend at court?"

Most important of all, however, is the virtual admission that without this proposed but withdrawn amendment, the railroad cannot collect damages. Will it reappear at Hartford?

Senator Stephenson, the immensely wealthy Wisconsin lumberman, is confronted with an investigation of his expenditures at the recent primaries in which he sought a renomination. He is practically charged with having expended a great sum, as he is understood to have also done in his original election.

Last year, the Secretary of State received \$81,747.50 in automobile fees. This is a comparatively new revenue, and it has been secured so easily that there is some possibility of an increase in the fees exacted, particularly from the high-powered machines. The argument is that such autos when driven at the high speed rendered possible and even invited by their high power, damage roadways more than any other class of vehicles, and that they should pay, in larger fees, a greater part of the cost of road repairs. As a matter of fact, greater damage is done by heavy, horse-drawn vehicles which pay no registration fees. For instance, who that is familiar with country roads in the interior towns, has not found them deeply rutted by vehicles transporting heavy loads of wooden ties to the railroads and often so seriously damaged as to be almost impassable? And the same is true of other heavily loaded vehicles. Automobiles may pick up and drive away the powdered surfaces of roads, but they make deep ruts only in mud.

But, notwithstanding the manifest injustice of attributing all the deterioration of the roads to the automobiles, their owners are probably willing to pay higher fees if they can be assured thereby of improved roads.

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STRATFORD

Lincoln and Sunday Services—Mr. Wells
—Begging for Jail—A Quilting Bee
—Talks on Libraries—Rummage.

The services in some of the churches in town tomorrow promise to be of more than usual interest. In the morning at the Congregational church at 10:30 Rev. Dr. Packard will deliver a sermon on "Lincoln's Sense of God's Hand in History." In the evening at 7:30 the following musical program will be rendered: solo, soprano, Pugh Evans; quartette, by Buck, and quartette, by Broome; hymn, "Lead Kindly Light," by A. L. Pearce; the same by Dykes, and the subject of the discourse will be "Lead Kindly Light."

At the Methodist church in the evening there will be a patriotic service in honor of the centennial of Lincoln's birth. Several will take part, reading brief selections from Lincoln's letters and famous papers. The topic of the sermon will be "Abraham Lincoln, As a Religious Force." The theme for the morning sermon is to be "A Short Story of a Wonderful Conversion."

Services at Christ church will be as follows: Morning prayer and Holy Communion at 10:30; evening prayer at 7:30. The Brotherhood of St. Andrew will hold a regular meeting on Wednesday at the rectory, at a quarter before 8.

The many friends of Edward M. Wells, who for a long time has kept the grocery store at Hart's corner, will be sorry to learn that his health, which has been declining for a long time, is now so poorly as to awaken the apprehensions of his family and physician. For a long time Mr. Wells thought he was suffering from a stomach trouble, but it is now apparent that he has tuberculosis. He was comfortable yesterday, but his condition is precarious.

Father O'Connor held Thursday in Westport, the guest of Father Dugan. A man appeared at the office of the probate judge yesterday, and asked to be sent to jail. He is a resident of this town, and connected with many of its well known families. He is out of work, and has no money, and he said he could not stay where he is and be scolded all the time. He wished either support from the town, or a comfortable berth in jail where he could have at least a warm room, food to eat, and something to do. Selectman Stacey was to have seen him yesterday afternoon for the purpose of assisting what can be done for the unfortunate man.

Robert Wood of this town, attended the banquet given by the insurance men at the Stratfield. Next Monday evening the Men's Club will meet at the house of J. W. Thompson, when Judge Beers of Bridgeport will deliver the address. His subject has not been announced.

Miss Susan Wilcox has been on the sick list. It is stated that a number of local people will attend the reception at the Seaside Club on the 13th inst. The good people of this town who have read Gov. Lilley's proclamation are preparing to keep the day, and some of them will hang out their flags. Of course they will be exercising in all the school rooms.

All the ladies and gentlemen of the town who are fond of quilting bees and know how to sew, are requested to bring their thimbles and thread and take a hand in getting up a quilt, on Wednesday afternoon, the 17th inst., at the Stratfield. The quilt, being made by the D. A. B. is now when finished will be sent to Memorial Hall in Washington. Those who do not know how to quilt, can play bridge in a room all by themselves. The Mutual Hook and Ladder Company has just held another meeting. Mrs. Charles E. Ransom, of Annapolis, is the guest of Mrs. George Burbank.

Our local librarians, Miss Frances Russell and Miss Alice Lovell, have returned from the meeting of the Library Association, with delightful recollections of the various lectures and enough fresh knowledge to make a small book. They met many of the librarians of the State, and listened to an address of welcome by Mr. Schwab, the librarian of Yale. Then President Hadley talked to them about the library and the modern university. Four of some of the university buildings was made, and especially the Yale library, where many interesting collections of the printers and book makers were given and then a luncheon was served in Memorial Hall. Miss Eleanor Lines and a party of girls from the Courland school have enjoyed a sleigh ride to Nicholas. A lady in town having called her son to dinner, and he having failed to respond, got a gun and backed away at him. The shot struck the side of the house and the windows, he put up his books and came down stairs in a hurry. There is a law against hunting without a license. It is said a number of out of town people attended the last Assembly dance. Mrs. Josiah Booth, whose funeral took place this afternoon, was the daughter of John and Betsy Osborn. Valentines are now all the rage in town, and one of the stores at the center has been turned into a picture gallery with its extensive display. The ice houses at Peck's Mill have been filled. Next Thursday the ladies of the Neighborhood church will hold their long anticipated rummage sale. It is hoped a good supply of clothing will be donated so that many poor people can provide it with the means which they possess. Never can tell when you'll mash a finger or suffer a cut, bruise or scald. "Pain Expeller" is the only remedy that instantly relieves the pain—quickly cures the wound.

FAIRFIELD COUNTY
JAIL LEADS STATE
More Prisoners Confined
Therein Than in Other
Counties.
DRUNKENNESS MOST
POPULAR OFFENSE

The returns of the county commissioners of the state for the two years ended September 30, 1908, have been published.

The total for the year ended September 30 shows that 10,846 prisoners were confined in the jails of the state. Fairfield county leads with a total of 3,014, Hartford second with 2,817 and New Haven county a close third with 2,795. The figures show a gain over the preceding year except for Windham county, where the number was less by five during the last period.

Middlesex county has a peculiar distinction as its returns show that four were landed in jail for blasphemy while none were convicted in the rest of the state. In Fairfield county only 109 moderate drinkers went to jail against 2,814 of the habitually intemperate. The total number for the state of those who went to jail for drunkenness was 4,964. Breach of the peace comes second in the list with 1,177 while no other offense in the whole list passes the thousand mark. Larceny was the doing of 600, theft of 340, burglary of 349, theft from the person of 92 and robbery of 64.

Seven hundred and forty-five persons were sent to jail for vagrancy and 332 for the kindred offense of trespassing on railroad property. Of offenses against the person assault ranked 463, jail, assault with intent to kill, 107, assault with intent to rape 38, rape 26 manslaughter 12 and murder 47, the last figures being impressive. Horse stealing sent twenty-eight persons to jail and the taking of a horse without leave added 12 more to the number. Counterfeiting seems to be a declining industry as the number sent to jail for it, while violation of the liquor laws incarcerated 25 in all and neglect of family sent 129 to jail.

THE WEEK IN WALL STREET.

(Special Correspondent of Farmer.) New York, Feb. 6.—The feature of the week in the stock market was the sharp advances in the Gould group and in some of the Hawley and Hamilton & Rio Grande common shot up to the highest point within two years. The report that James J. Hill was trying to buy the road for the Burlington which was promptly denied, gave responsible for the advance. The road while controlled by the Goulds could be bought easily in the open market as the Goulds had no interest in actual possession of a majority of the stock. The Denver is earning about 3 per cent, and a little more on the common and it is believed in some quarters that a dividend may be declared at no late date.

On December 12 the average price was 115.18. It declined to 115.20 December 21, rallied to 120.10 January 2, declined to 117.63 January 12, moved up to 119.97 January 21, fell off to 116.93 January 30 and rallied to 118 at the end of the week.

There was some heavy selling of Reading which was weak while the Gould and Hawley issues were strong. This was due to the fact that the Wholesale coal dealers had sent out a circular letter to all the retailers advising them to stock up as there was some danger of a strike. Now it can be said that there is little danger as the miners union has voted to keep at work pending the settlement of the new wage scale. But sellers will tell good stories now to force buyers to take on as big a load as possible. The price of copper was cut one cent a pound during the week. This is in line with the knowledge that the supply on hand is greater than for a long time, and that the production is running ahead of the consumption. There is but one thing that makes for higher prices in stocks and that is easy money and there are signs that this period is drawing to a close. The government will have a deficit of \$135,000,000 and will be forced to do something to replenish its finances. Three per cent. notes can be sold but this will be but a temporary expedient. The talk of replacing the war taxes is not so kindly and is not believed that tariff reductions will not help to swell the funds in the treasury. Within a few months the Government will have but \$51,000,000 left with deposits for January and February. It is to be prepared to finance the moving of the corps this year, and if they are large as is probable the Government demand for cash will be enormous. It and the business requirements will make for a period of stringency.

There are signs that the turn for better has again come. The iron and steel business is showing improvement and for December and the earnings of railroads are showing improvements as is evidenced by the reports of the Vanderbilt line which were published Thursday. These were all good and surprised the Street and did much to stop the decline that was started by the weakening of Reading. It is understood that the Governor favors passing a law that will divide the members of the exchange into "brokers" and "traders." The broker can not speculate and the trader will not be permitted to accept an account on margin. That is, any man who wishes to trade for himself on the floor of the exchange must be a trader and take accounts from any one else except for cash. This is a good thing and will meet with general approval. J. R. BURTON.

DIVORCED AT HARTFORD.

In the Superior court at Hartford, Friday, Josephine Swenson, who lives in Bridgeport, was divorced from Knute E. Swenson of Hartford. Swenson is charged with intolerable cruelty and with having improper relations with a Mrs. Oswald, also known as Mrs. Lingren in Hartford. They were married in Sweden in April, 1890, and they separated in October, 1906. In addition to the divorce Mrs. Swenson can resume her maiden name of Vogelburg.

NOT DUE TO HAWLEY.

(Stafford Advocate.) Some newspaper writers are endeavoring to convey the impression that the choice of Judge Mead by the Fairfield county caucus is in the nature of a victory for Sheriff Hawley as against Congressman Hill, who is credited with having favored the choice of C. Ernest Lounsbury of Darien. As a matter of fact, the re-election of Judge Mead had long been expected, and most politicians were surprised that Lounsbury received as many as 11 of the 36 votes cast.

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